

Just for friends of Youth Journalism International, the *YJI Insider* aims to provide a behind-the-scenes look at this Connecticut-based educational charity and its talented students around the globe.

Students deliver must-see stories from Connecticut to Kathmandu

It's hard to believe that fall is already in full swing. It's been pretty busy at YJI this year and too long since you got an update, so here's a little overview of what's been happening.

This month, there's a special event aimed at YJI's friends in or around Connecticut. With our partners, The Mark Twain House & Museum and the World Affairs Council of Connecticut, YJI is presenting an award-winning documentary, "Frame by Frame" about press freedom in Afghanistan. It's on Thursday, Nov. 19 and full details are on the back of this newsletter. Please mark your calendar! Proceeds will benefit YJI. We want to pack the house.

One thing you'd probably like to know is that YJI's reach is even greater since adding more new students this year. Because of support from friends reading this newsletter, young writers and photographers from The Gambia, Iran, Malawi, Ecuador, Mexico, Taiwan and Tanzania are able to tell their stories. They join scores of other eager young people from every continent who share their unique perspectives on the world with readers everywhere.

Every story, commentary, cartoon and photo is published at www.YJIBlog.org. Highlights included coverage from Pokhara and Kathmandu about the



Megan Elizabeth Barlow, who wrote about refugees, took this photo in the Keleti train station in Budapest.



Student Lama Jallow's photo from a school in The Gambia illustrates his piece about working hard to get ahead.

devastating earthquake in Nepal and a first-person account from a girl in Taiwan about a rewarding experience she had volunteering in Cambodia. Students wrote movingly about the terrorist shootings in Tunisia, Charleston, and Paris.

Students told about school being canceled because of smog in Singapore and about withering heat waves in Pakistan. They shared their visits to a Van Gogh art exhibit and beach towns like Galveston, Texas and fuzzy photos of the "supermoon" as seen from Malawi and northern New England.

It's only the tip of the iceberg, of course, but you get the idea. And more is definitely on the way.



Santosh Paudel took this photo in Kathmandu after the earthquake.

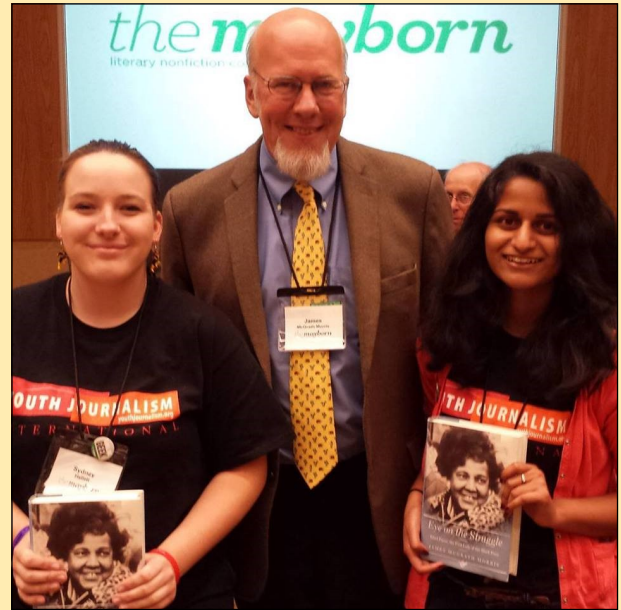
Two YJI writers win prestigious national contest, earn trip to Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference

Judges at the prestigious Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference again selected two Youth Journalism International students to be part of group of 10 youth who attended a special summer writing workshop and conference in Grapevine, Texas.

This year, stories by Sydney Hallett, then a high school senior from greater St. Louis, and Mugdha Gurram, a Connecticut high school sophomore, made the cut. Sydney wrote about artists who are using murals to positively transform battered, boarded up neighborhoods in Ferguson, Missouri. Mugdha wrote about her state's heroine, Prudence Crandall, and her role in Connecticut history.

The girls, chosen to be part of the "Young Spurs" workshop at the Mayborn conference, worked with acclaimed biographer James McGrath Morris for a day, improving their stories, which as a part of the prize, will be published in *The Dallas Morning News*. They then spent the rest of the week-end hearing from and, in many cases, interviewing, well-known authors and journalists from around the country.

This is the fourth year in a row that Mayborn judges chose YJI students to be part of the Young Spurs workshop.



Sydney Hallett, left, and Mugdha Gurram, right, with biographer James McGrath Morris.

Entries continue to increase in YJI's contest

Youth Journalism International's annual Excellence in Journalism contest continues to grow in the number of entries and in its global reach.

Annie Schugart, an editor for a Kansas City area high school paper who's now at Harvard University, took top honors as this year's Student Journalist of the Year. Barbara Bateman of Mobile, Alabama won the Journalism Educator of the Year award. Eden Tadesse from Ethiopia won the Courage in Journalism Award. Sophie Tulp, of Shawnee Mission East High School in Prairie Village, Kansas, captured the Frank Keegan "Take No Prisoners" Award for News and Ahmad Zaqout of Gaza, now studying at Roanoke College in Virginia, won the Jacinta Marie Bunnell Award for Commentary.



Youth Journalism International's 2015 Student Journalist of the Year, Annie Schugart

Competition was stiff, with more than 130 awards in about three dozen categories going to students in 23 U.S. states and nine countries on five continents. The contest is open to any student journalist, age 19 or under, anywhere, for work done in English.

"This year the field of entries was the strongest I've seen. It was inspiring to see so many well-crafted pieces on so many diverse topics," said judge Joe Killian, a daily newspaper reporter in Greensboro, N.C. who got his start through Youth Journalism International.

Now in its seventh year, the contest recognizes writing and reporting, art, photo and multi-media skills in more than two dozen news, sports and opinion categories. A panel of experienced judges chooses the winners. Engraved crystal trophies are awarded in the top categories and all winners and finalists receive custom-made certificates. Entries for the 2016 contest are due in February.

Student Spotlight: Alan Burkholder, Connecticut



A cartoon Alan Burkholder drew early this year, after the *Charlie Hebdo* murders.

Alan Burkholder, a student from Bristol, Connecticut now studying at Boston University, is unstoppable. A wonderful writer, talented artist and fun-loving guy, Alan's made a real difference in YJI since coming aboard in 2013.

Movie lovers might recognize his keen ability at film criticism – he wrote terrific reviews of *Lincoln*, *The Lego Movie*, *Guardians of the Galaxy* and more.

Alan's gifts go beyond the silver screen. He's delivered incisive, funny reports on everything from internet access rights for teens to what makes a NYC radio station tick to history lectures that he thought would be boring but weren't. He's a good team player, too, working collaboratively with other students on topics both serious – interviewing the mother of a Sandy Hook victim – and fun, like the day he spent with other YJI students at Lake Compounce amusement park, or both, in the case of a Maurice Sendak exhibit.

Alan's represented YJI at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center's annual Inspiration to Action fair in Hartford several times and at the Bristol Blues baseball games, where he not only helped at the YJI table, but also wowed the crowd in a breakdancing contest on the field.

Alan spent his summer as an Associate Editor at YJI, editing student work from around the world, including pieces from the UK, The Gambia and Ethiopia. He treated students and their writing with sensitivity and respect. Alan's efforts made a real difference and we're happy he's part of Team YJI.



YJI tours WNYC radio



Karen Rouse

New York radio reporter Karen Rouse is a great friend to YJI. She is not only an Ambassador and contest judge for the organization, but also a wonderful tour guide.

Karen, who works at WNYC, invited YJI students to tour the station and meet with some of the journalists there. On the tour, they learned some of the differences between radio and print journalism.

On the outing, YJI students also got a chance to meet and get to know some YJI alumni who live in New York.

Apart from the radio station tour, students and alums took a hike on the High Line, a city park built on an abandoned rail line that one YJI writer called "a well-integrated mix of man and nature."



YJI Earns Top Marks

For the sixth year in a row, Youth Journalism International earned the "top-rated" status from the respected charity rating website, Great Non Profits. If you haven't ever taken a look at the 124 personal reviews from students, alumni, parents, teachers, grandparents volunteers, donors and readers, please do. They tell a powerful story of the impact YJI makes on young people and the world.

See a great movie in Hartford with YJI

You won't want to miss a one-night-only showing of an award-winning documentary about press freedom that Youth Journalism International is screening on Nov. 19 in Hartford at The Mark Twain House & Museum.

YJI is partnering with The Mark Twain House and the World Affairs Council of Connecticut to present *Frame by Frame*, a film that follows four Afghan photojournalists as they work to tell important stories despite the Taliban.

Following the U.S. invasion in response to 9/11, the Taliban regime toppled and along with it, the media blackout in Afghanistan. In its wake, a fledgling free press emerged and a photography revolution was born.

Filmed entirely in modern Afghanistan, the movie shows secret footage shot in the years of the Taliban, the positive changes after the ousting of the repressive regime and concerns about the future.

You can see the trailer at www.framebyframethefilm.com.

Whether you're interested in press freedom, world events, Afghanistan, photography or just like a good movie, please grab a few friends and come out to support YJI at this event. It's a comfy theater and there is plenty of free, safe parking.

Thanks to the generosity of our partners, all proceeds after expenses will benefit YJI. Admission is by donation – at least \$10 is suggested. The event begins at 7 p.m. and there will be a reception after the show.



The Mark Twain House & Museum

YOUTH JOURNALISM INTERNATIONAL
youthjournalism.org

world affairs council CONNECTICUT

present

A FILM BY ALEXANDRIA BOMBACH AND MO SCARPELLI

FRAME BY FRAME

SHOT EXCLUSIVELY IN AFGHANISTAN

AFTER THE FALL OF AFGHANISTAN'S TALIBAN GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA BLACKOUTS, FOUR PHOTO-JOURNALISTS SET ABOUT CREATING THEIR HOME'S FIRST FREE PRESS

Thursday, November 19 at 7:00pm
Suggested donation is \$10

Donations for this screening will benefit Youth Journalism International, and the screening will be followed by a reception.

Reservations for this event are available by calling (860) 247-0998 or by visiting MarkTwainHouse.org

The screening will take place in the Lincoln Financial Services Auditorium at The Mark Twain House & Museum - 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford CT



Supported by



Department of Economic and Community Development
Office of the Arts

It's going to be a great night, so mark your calendar and don't miss it. See you at the movie!